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(54) **MELANOGENESIS INHIBITOR**

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain the subject inhibitor comprising the extracted essence of CHOUTOUKOU (a hook attached to the main axis of *Uncaria rhynchophylla* Miq. or *Uncaria sinensis*) as an active ingredient having inhibitory effect on melanogenesis, excellent beautifying effect, preventing and treating effect on stain/freckles caused by suntan, etc., useful as a cosmetic having high safety.

SOLUTION: This melanogenesis inhibitor comprises the

extracted essence of CHOUTOUKOU [a hook attached to the main axis of *Uncaria rhynchophylla* Miq. or *Uncaria sinensis* of (Rubiaceae)] as an active ingredient. The extraction, for example, is preferably carried out by extracting 30-150g of CHOUTOUKOU prepared by grinding after drying with 1l of ethanol under heating at 70°C for 3 hours under reflux. The amount of CHOUTOUKOU is 0.005-0.1wt.% calculated as the dry weight of the extracted essence based on the whole amount of a skin preparation for external use.

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